(b) if so, whether Government propose to constitute a high-powered committee comprising of medical experts and voluntary sectors to evolve a rational policy on the manufacture and marketing of ayurvedic products?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government would undertake such a survey and, in the light of the findings of the survey, review the legal provisions for regulating the manufacture and marketing of ayurvedic medicines.

Mosquito nets impregnated with pesticide

@*397. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mosquito nets impregnated with pesticide have been developed as reported in the Hindustan Times of 21st October, 1991;

(b) if so, whether it may conteminate the air; and

(c) whether it would be safe for children who may touch or lick the nets unknowingly?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Mosquito bednets impregnated with insecticides have been developed. The insecticides used to impregnate these nets do not contaminate the air and pose no health hazard.

Doctors with foreign Degrees

*398. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal from the Medical Council of India for conducting an entrance examination for all foreign Degree holding Doctors of medicine to practice in India;

(b) if so, what is Government's decision thereon; and

(c) the number of Medical Doctors in India holding Degrees from foreign Universities which are not yet recognised by the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) A Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, as reported by Joint Committee of Parliament, contains a provision for conducting a screening test for foreign degree holders.

(c) No such information is available with the Medical Council of India.

Scheme of having only gauge in the country

*399. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHANAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the scheme of Railway line with only one gauge in the entire country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF (a) A phased system change from MG to BG is being contemplated.

(b) Progress of conversion will depend on the availability of resources.

Utilization of land lying along railway lines

*400. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area of land with the Indian Railways lying on both sides of railway lines;

@Previously Starred Question 317 transferred from the 12th December, 1991.

(b) whether there is any proposal to make this land available for cultivation and social forestry;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Total land with the Indian Railways is 4.19 lakh hectare, most of which is located under and on the sides of the Railway lines.

(b) to (d) The present policy is to allow tree plantation (social forestry), and not cultivation, on the vacant Railway land on both sides of the Railway lines keeping it at a safe distance from the lines. The tree plantation is being done both by the Railway itself and through the assistance of the Forest Department.

Elephant "Mahal"

2799. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that elephant "Mahal" has been banned in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Elephant is a Scheduled animal under Section 49 A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Dealing in any captive animals being Scheduled animal is prohibited under Section 49B of the Act.

Plan to check deforestation for shifting cultivation

2800. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to check deforestation for shifting cultivation (Jhuming) in tribal areas of North Eastern States; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what alternative arrangements Government propose to make for the tribals to change their age-old tradition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Government of India through Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a scheme for control of Shifting Cultivation in the tribal areas of North Eastern States. Under the scheme, integrated programmes are taken up for reclamation and development of land for settlement of jhumias under regular agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and forestry activities. Programmes for subsidiary occupations like cottage industry, poultry, piggery etc. are also undertaken.

(b) It is proposed to launch a scheme during 8th Plan period for association of tribals and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests to create sustainable resource base for economic activities of these people.

मध्य प्रदेश में सिंचाई वाले जलाशय

2801. **श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपुरिया** : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसे कौन-कौन से जलाशय हैं जिनमें पानी के भण्डारण पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है ;

(ख) इन जलाशयों की अलग-अलग सिंचाई क्षमता कितनी- कितनी है ;

(ग) ऐसे जलाशयों के डूब वाले क्षेत्र में आने वाले वन क्षेत्र का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उससे वन सम्पदा को कितना नुकसान हुआ है; और

(घ) इन जलाशयों के माध्यम से होने वाली सिंचाई के लाभों की तुलना में वन सम्पदा को कितनी हानि हुई है ?